

# PARTNERS IN MOTION

Penn Ave



**T**he 494 transportation corridor stretches eight miles and connects residential suburbs with major commercial areas, including the Mall of America and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The corridor includes I-494 as well as parallel local streets and major north-south routes.

Congestion within the corridor is a recurring problem. It's essential that we take steps now to minimize problems and enhance the level of service. Economic growth is expected to increase the number of vehicle trips by 45 percent during the next 15 years. Unless steps are taken, travel times will double by the year 2010.

Another problem is an over use of the freeway system. The average trip length on I-494 is two miles. If drivers who now use the freeway for short trips can be encouraged to use other routes instead, the freeway will be less congested.

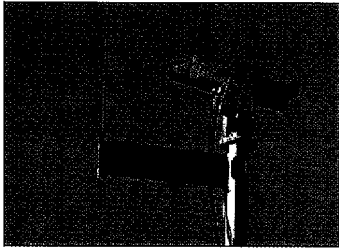
ICTM stands for Integrated Corridor Traffic Management, an innovative traffic management project sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, Minnesota Department of Transportation [Mn/DOT], Hennepin County, and the cities of Bloomington, Richfield, and Edina. The ICTM team also includes private sector partners who bring technical expertise and the latest in advanced technology.

ICTM will use state-of-the-art technology to create a "fully integrated" traffic corridor that responds rapidly to changing traffic conditions. Using technology developed in Australia, the Sydney Coordinated Adapted Traffic System [SCATS], will synchronize the timing of signalized intersections and freeway entrance ramps. By coordinating signal timing, SCATS will create more efficient, responsive, and flexible signal operations, not only for normal traffic flow but during incidents, emergencies, and special events.

The backbone of the project will be a comprehensive communication system using a variety of detector technologies, traffic control signs, and surveillance equipment. This system will be linked by a fiber optic network to computers at Mn/DOT's Traffic Management Center and several remote work stations. With instant access to traffic information, ICTM operators will be able to respond quickly to accidents, incidents, and other corridor problems. Radio and traffic control signs will inform drivers of potential delays and alternate routes.

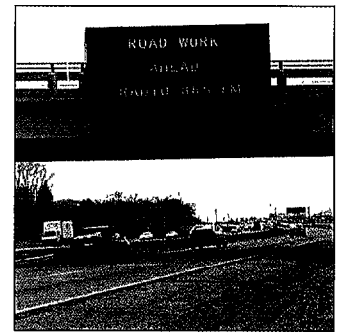
The success of ICTM hinges on acceptance by the driving public. An evaluation will assess the benefits to the motoring public, participating agencies, and communities. It's hoped the lessons learned during the ICTM project may then be used to improve other congested freeway corridors.

**For more information, please contact: Linda Taylor (612) 582-1461**

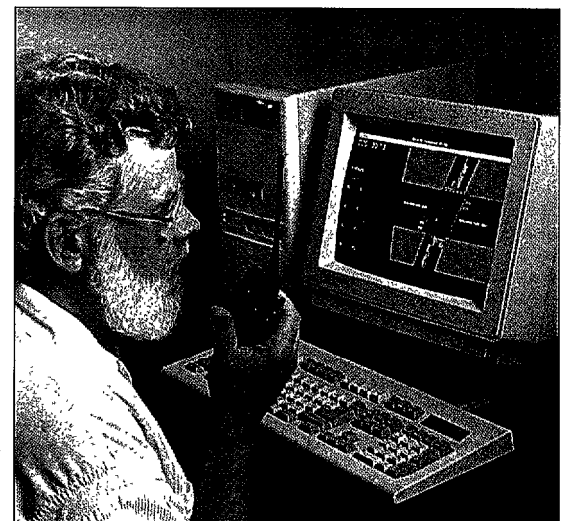


Video cameras along the corridor help detect incidents.

Radio and traffic control signs will alert drivers to problems ahead and provide alternate route information.



The ICTM Project is built upon Mn/DOT's state-of-the-art freeway management system. The Traffic Management Center provides the communication backbone for ICTM. (above) The regional computer integrates the freeway and arterial roadway system control. (right) Local agencies access SCATS through remotework stations. (far right)

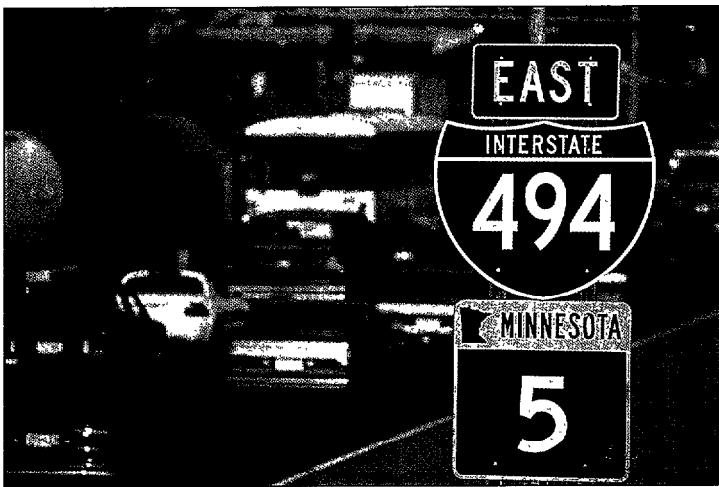


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Here's the problem: How to handle increasing traffic in a heavily congested freeway corridor.

The solution: Integrated Corridor Traffic

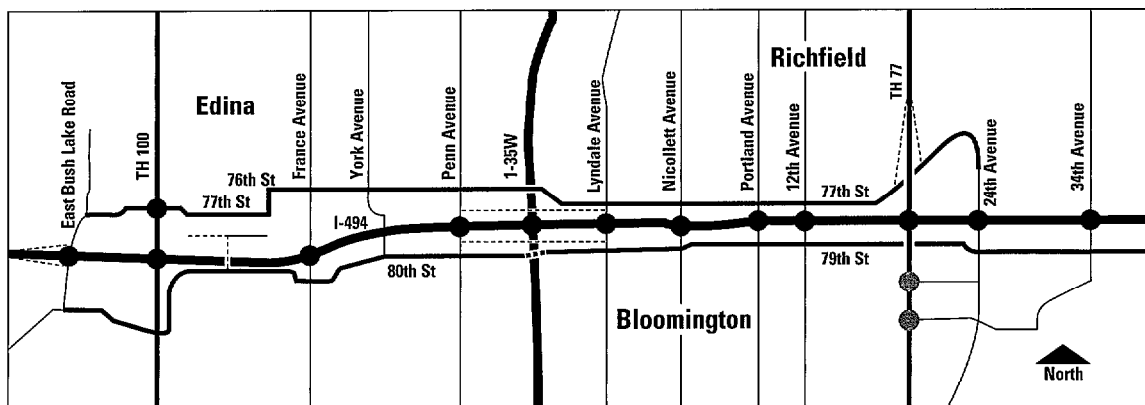
Management [ICTM], a synchronized approach to

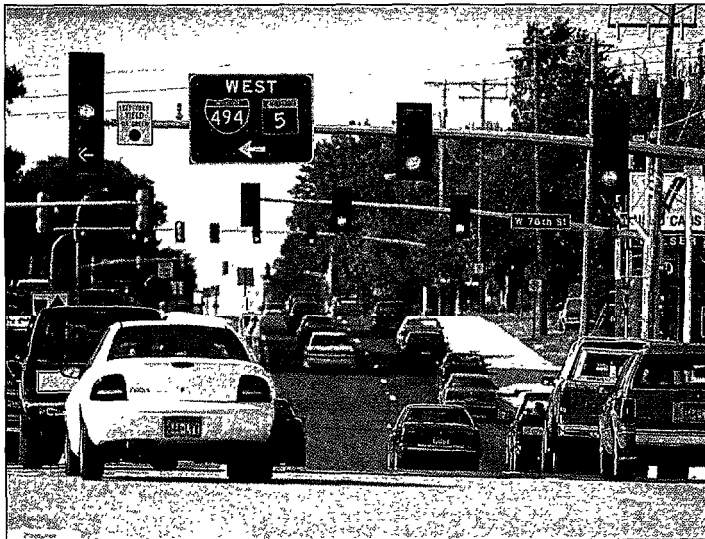


managing traffic that combines advanced technology and the teamwork of three cities, one county,

and the State of Minnesota - Partners In Motion!

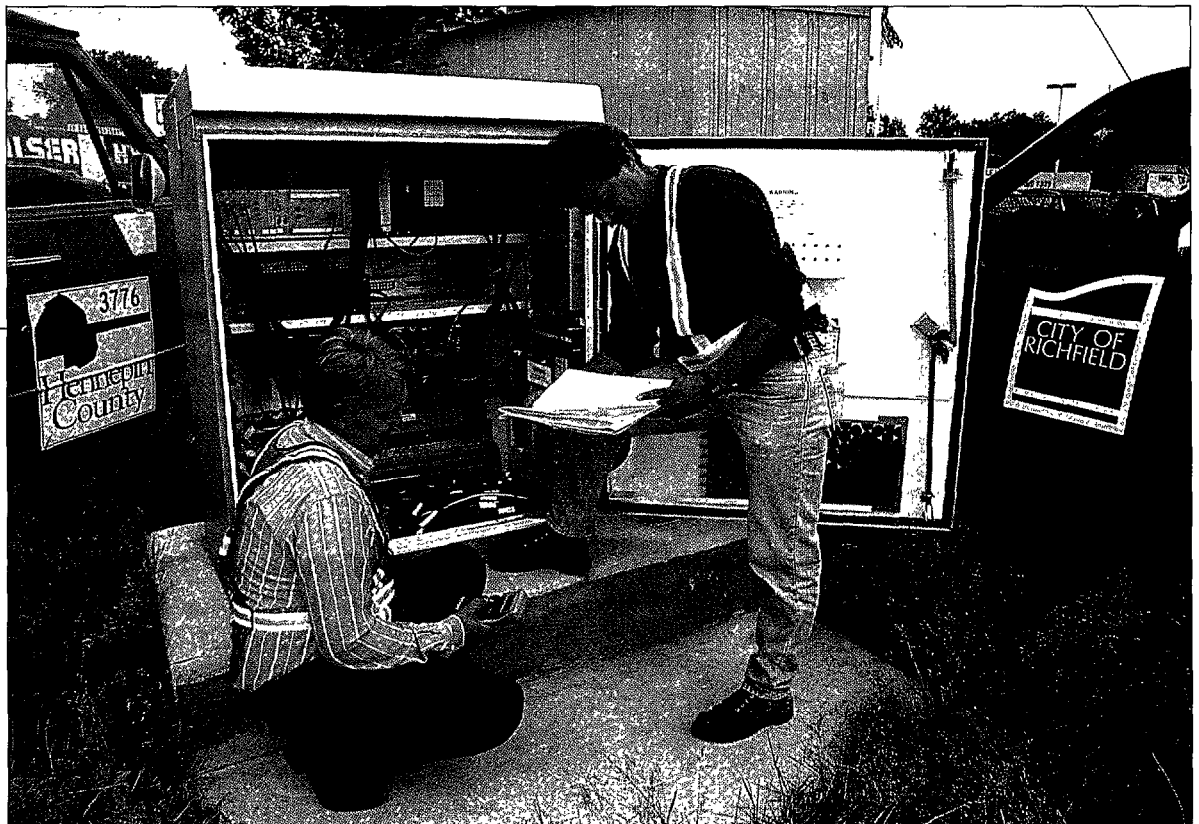
The goal of ICTM is to improve traffic flow not just on the freeway but throughout the 494 corridor.





SCATS  
synchronizes  
the timing of  
signalized  
intersections  
(left) and freeway  
entrance ramps.  
(right)

Signal controllers  
use real time  
traffic information  
from radar, loops,  
and video  
imaging  
technology to  
adjust signal  
timing. (right)  
Multiple agencies  
cooperatively  
manage traffic  
flow throughout  
the 494 corridor



## Minnesota Guidestar

Minnesota Guidestar, the state's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program, is developing a better statewide transportation system for Minnesota citizens and businesses through leadership in technology testing and development, institutional progressiveness, and innovative partnerships.

ITS is a national effort to improve the movement of people and goods to bring travelers such benefits as a cleaner environment, improved productivity, enhanced safety, and new business opportunities.

Minnesota Guidestar is directed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Advanced Transportation Systems Office. In the spirit of cooperation and new business opportunities, the project teams are partnerships between public, private, and academic sectors, all making contributions of time, money and resources.



***Partners in Motion***  
***494 Transportation Corridor***

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